

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

February 14, 2012

Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

President Thoreson called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:07 A.M. via video conference in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Office on Roop Street in Carson City and at the 2nd Floor Conference Room-#242 at the Clark County School District Office in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Brianne Thoreson, President
Mary Keith, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner - arrived at 9:17 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Nancy Sileo, Vice President
Brian Boothe, Commissioner
Elissa Couch, Commissioner
Bonnie Townsend, Commissioner

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Dr. Cheryl Lau, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure
Jeanette Calkins, Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Steven Hay-Chapman, Washoe County School District
Carrie Parker, Nevada Attorney General's Office
Lindsay Knox, McDonald-Carano-Wilson

Thomas Harrison, University of Nevada, Reno

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Dena Durish, Clark County School District
Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Jim LaBuda, Nevada State College

It was determined that a quorum of the Commission was present. Commissioner Boothe led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Vice President Sileo moved to approve the agenda as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Boothe. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Discussion of Open Meeting Law Compliance Issues

Senior Deputy Attorney General Irvin complimented the Commission on their understanding and following of the Open Meeting Law requirements. Dr. Irvin reminded, at the request of the President Thoreson that public comment is now allowed at the beginning and the end of each public meeting and can be controlled with reasonable constraints/guidelines. It is a matter of public of speech that members of a public body can respond to public comment; however Dr. Irvin has consistently suggested that the Commission not respond to public comment; because if it does become a conversation it is likely to become problematic. Action cannot be taken from public comment, with the exception of setting an agenda item is not necessarily an action item under public comment.

Assembly Bill 230 Discussion

Dr. Irvin stated that following the January 18th meeting, he further reviewed the requirements outlined in AB 230 and determined the following requirements, which were required in "Race to the Top":

- Institutions of higher education or other providers operating independently from institutions of higher education may be granted the ability to have programs that provide an alternate route process.
- The ARL programs are to be selective in accepting candidates. The rigor in the application process could be the process by which a program is reviewed to ensure that that an ARL program is not an easier route to teacher preparation. It was been stated that this Commission believes the competence is important as it relates to teacher licensure.
- Supervised school-based experiences to be equivalent to student teaching or to pre-service pre-student teaching experience.

- Coursework requirements are to be significantly limited; but can require that the applicant possesses the skills required to be a teacher.
- Upon completion of the ARL program, the certification is required to be the equivalent of a regular teacher preparation program.
- Allowance for other entities to provide ARL programs that lead to teacher licensure.
- The statute includes language that states that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is to enforce the Commission's obligations to pass these regulations.

It was discussed that the Commission was directed to accomplish this requirement without must guidance. It was also discussed that the Commission has been working on ARL licensure for the past 5-7 years.

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure, stated that the original proposal, drafted by the ARL Task Force, provided to Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) did not include the provider application process. Following discussion with LCB, Dr. Barbee stated that LCB included provider application process within R115-11 and also includes information on the Review Team. Dr. Barbee stated that the application and review team was not to be include within the regulation to allow the Commission the flexibility, when and if the application and/or the application process or review team needed to be amended without going through the time consuming regulation process.

Workshop to Solicit Comments to LCB File No. R115-11; NAC 391.057 – Conditional Licensure: Categories, Qualifications; Validity; Permission by the Department for School District, Charter School, or Private School to Hire Licensee; Requirements of Licensee Following Issuance; NAC 391.058 – Conditional Licensure: Application to Department for Permission of School District, Charter School or Private School to Hire Licensee; Duties of Employing School District, Charter School or Private School; Requirements of Licensee Following Issuance; Cooperation with Commission and Department; NAC 391.042 – Initial License Requiring Student Teaching Experience; Conditions for Substitution of Teaching Experience; NAC 391.171- Conditional Endorsement as Professional Administrator of School; Authorized Employment; Validity; NAC 391.470 – Qualifications for Issuance of Renewable Teaching License to Persons Who Complete Nontraditional Training Program; and Delete NAC 391.172-Employment of Person Who Hold Conditional Endorsement as Professional Administrator of a School; Approval by Department Required; Duties of Employing School District, Charter School or Private School; Requirements of Licensee Following Employment; NAC 391.173 – Qualifications for Issuance of Unconditional Endorsement as Professional Administrator of School to Person Who Holds Conditional Endorsement; and NAC 391.475 – Qualifications for Issuance of Conditional Special Qualifications License to Persons Who Complete Nontraditional Training Program; Validity; Duties of Employing School District, Charter School or Private School; Application for Renewable Special Qualifications License; Circumstances Under Which License Deemed Immediately Revoked

President Thoreson opened the workshop at 9:40 A.M. There were 8 individuals present. There was no public comment.

President Thoreson recommended, after reviewing AB 230, keeping the application process in regulation; as it defines what program can be approved.

The following amendments were made to R115-11:

President Thoreson suggested the following amendments to R115-11:

- Add to Section 1, 1(c)1 - If you are non-accredited you must provide detailed descriptions with evidence of the following: a) the structure of the organization including professional qualifications and a positional flow chart; b) financial management and planning of the organization to provide a viable and sustainable institution for applicants; c) a curriculum structure and support; and d) curriculum evaluation and improvement.
- Amend Section 1, 1(e) – A description of the budget for the program, as well as profit loss statement and financial stability.
- Replace Section 1, 5. - The evaluation will include, but not limited to, the following: Each qualified provider shall provide a separate annual evaluation for each program that the provider delivers. The annual report/evaluation to be completed by the Department of Education and staff shall include, but not limited to the following: a) A successful annual evaluation is required for the institution to continue providing ARL and that evaluation would need to contain a report on all graduates including 1) in which Districts they hold positions; 2) the successful transition to licensure – the number of individuals who obtained full licensure; 3) the number of successful evaluations vs. unsatisfactory; and 4) the number to be re-hired and if not re-hired, how many did they report to the State Department of Education of not continuing in their ARL program. b) A summary from the Districts with the teachers reporting their successes and weaknesses. c) A report on all applicants to the program to include demographics of: 1) how many individuals are enrolled; 2) who is enrolled; 3) end of year financial report; and 4) an update on faculty and staff demographics, qualifications, new employees and professional development provided.
- Add to Section 1, 6. – The recommendation from the annual evaluation will be submitted to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education for review and approval.
- Add to Section 1, 7. Successful annual evaluations are required for the institution to continue providing Alternative Route to Licensure programs. a) If the provider receives an unsatisfactory annual review, they will have one year in which to make the necessary changes to receive a satisfactory review with detailed improvement plan in a six month or mid-year report, to update the Department of Education on the progress made in accomplishing those recommendations that come forward from the evaluation. b) If two unsatisfactory evaluations are received or if a participant who is on an improvement plan chooses not to participate in that improvement plan, the provider must provide an Exit Plan, inclusive of a description of how the provider will assist existing participants in

- 1) completing the program with said provider or 2) transferring cost free, to the participant, to a program run by another approved provider.
- Add to Section 1, 3 – a) Approval will grant the ARL provider two years with the annual review process detailed in subsections 4 through 8; and b) At the end of two years, the ARL provider must complete either a new application or a modified renewal application depending on the results of the annual evaluation detailed in subsection 4 through 8.
- Add to Section 1 – An institution of higher education or any other provider that operates independently of an institution of higher education that wishes to offer a program for an alternative route for the licensure of teachers and administrators in this State must be approved to offer a program of study by the Commission on Post Secondary Education. Providers approved by the Commission on Post Secondary Education wishing to provide an ARL program must also apply to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Department for approval to become a qualified provider of such a program...
- Amend Section 4, NAC 391.057 2(b) – If a major is not held but a minor is held pass each competency test or tests required by the Commission in the subject matter of the area for which the applicant is seeking a conditional license.

There was discussion that a non-higher education institution would have to be Post-secondary institution and would have to obtain approval from the Commission on Post-Secondary Education, which would be an application, a hearing, and approval of the program (similar to obtaining a license) and then if there are problems, included in 394, there is a process (which is part of the approval process) and recommendation of post-secondary staff as to a bond and approval of the bond amount; students have right to the school records and the possibly for the recovery of funds paid to said school. There are guideline and hearing requirements for the recovery of funds through the bond process.

It was suggested that the Commission may want to discuss this process with David Perlman, Director of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education and Steve Canavero, Nevada State Public Charter School Authority; as they have both been through this process of developing new regulations to ensure that the process is correct.

President Thoreson closed the workshop at 10:01 A.M.

MOTION: Commissioner Keith moved to post R115-11, ARL proposed regulations, for a third workshop at the March 14, 2012 Commission meeting and send the amended proposal back to Legislative Counsel Bureau for language, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment of Commission Meeting

President Thoreson adjourned the meeting at 11:44 A.M.